Failure to achieve the target by Indian shipping industry

4908. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian shipping industry has failed to meet the Ninth Plan target;

(b) if so, whether according to the National Shipowners' Association there has been stagnation in the growth of the Indian fleet during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether as against the targeted tonnage of 9 million grt. for the Ninth Plan period, the tonnage position as on January 1, 2002 was only 6.94 million which was more or less at the level that existed at the beginning of the plan period which stood at 6.92 million grt.; and

(d) if so, what were the main reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There has been stagnation in the growth of Indian fleet during Ninth Plan period.

(d) Lack of conducive fiscal environment was the main reason for Indian shipping industry not achieving the targeted tonnage. Further, the shipping industry faced recession during the first half of the Ninth Plan period.

Chinese participation in dredging of major ports

4909. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that presently the Chinese companies are not permitted to participate in dredging of major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recently the Kolkata Port Trust has pleaded with Government that the Chinese companies be permitted to participate in global tendering of Rs. 400 crore capital dredging project of Kolkata port; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?